

January 26, 1976

to make certain appointments with the training that he feels in his mind this person will make a good deputy. Yes, in all things there's always one or two people who get into this type of sheriff work that have to be weeded out.

You should not shackle ... you should not put extra restraints on a sheriff that is elected like you and I are. The sheriff of Douglas County is elected by the people. The time that the people in Douglas County are dissatisfied with the sheriff they'll vote him out of office, but they're not dissatisfied and so he's returned to office.

We're talking about a municipality in the city limits. The sheriff of Douglas County doesn't come into that municipality unless it's a time in which really ... the tornado then he was used, that's an example of last year. The sheriff's people had to come in in the blizzard because some of those people on his Sheriff's Department had certain four-wheel vehicles that they could come in and be of help.

Actually, where you're talking about the reserve deputies is in an area which should be out in Jim Dickinson's territory. To most parts he's probably located in the environs around Omaha, take in Bennington, Elkhorn and places in which there is no real patrol. They're down sometimes I suppose to one cruiser for a tremendous area. So if these deputies do have an evening or four hours it makes it possible for the regular deputy sheriffs to take their vacation days or to take a day off, sometimes there will be a funeral or something like that.

I think it's a big thing about nothing. I think that without a doubt the Legislature here should not place this back into the hand of politics. You're going to do that when you say ... and Senator Chambers you're dead wrong on this. They go there for the budget. The sheriff goes for the budget. But almost all agencies in state government come to the Legislature for the budget. I don't think, here in this Legislature, that we should be picking the highway patrolmen, that's what it amounts to. This Legislature shouldn't pick the members of the Highway Patrol. We depend on that highway patrol chief to come forward with certain qualifications. He then comes to us and says "I need so many cars and so many pieces of equipment". We back him with that type of support.

I think if you're going to go down the line in government ... if this Legislature doesn't pick the highway patrolmen, the county board shouldn't be picking the extra deputies that worked in the field with the commissioners.

I'd hope that you'd support Senator Swigart and bracket the bill until the other bills are going to come forward. The training will be spelled out in them. I think you'll find them very acceptable.